

II) REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Office action dated January 30, 2004. A request to extend the time to respond for three months has already been filed under separate cover. Thus, this Amendment is timely filed.

The Examiner has objected to claim 17 because of an alleged informality. Claim 17 has been cancelled herein, thus rendering this objection moot.

The Examiner has also rejected claim 18 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claim 18 has been cancelled herein, thus rendering this rejection moot.

The Examiner has also rejected claims 1-20 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Stork et al. (USP 5,781,914). The Applicant has cancelled claims 1-20 and presents herein new claims 21-25 in order to more clearly distinguish over the cited prior art as explained herein.

The Applicant's invention, as set forth in newly presented claims 21 and 24, is directed towards a method for accessing content on a computer network. A first user generates web content for inclusion in a web page, and then submits the content via a first client computer over the computer network to a composer interface server. The composer interface server receives the content from the first user and generates a web page. The composer interface server then associates a bar code symbol with the generated web page, and stores the association of the web page and the bar code symbol in memory. The bar code symbol is then transmitted by the composer interface server over the computer network to the first client computer of the first user.

The first user may then generate a physical document that includes the bar code symbol, and then disseminate the physical document to a second user. The second user inputs the bar code symbol to a linking interface on a second client computer interconnected to the computer network, which then decodes the bar code symbol and retrieving the web page over the network as a function of the decoded bar code symbol.

This invention allows a first user to provide other users with online access to web content by disseminating a bar code symbol that has been generated for that content, so that the other users can simply scan the bar code and be automatically linked to the generated web content. As such, any user such as an individual may be given the power to disseminate web content, linked by the specially generated bar code symbol, to others as desired. For example, a professional may generate a resume document, submit the resume information to the composer interface server, which will then generate a special bar code and associate the bar code data in memory with the resume. The user receives this bar code from the composer interface server and prints it on his business cards, which are given to his clients. The clients may then simply scan the bar code symbol from the business card at any time and their computer will decode the bar code data and retrieve the resume from the Internet.

The Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's interpretation of the cited Stork patent as set forth in the Office action. The Stork patent teaches a system that converts documents (with links to other electronic information) back and forth between electronic and hardcopy formats. The purpose of this is to be able to produce a physical document, such as shown in Figure 1 of the Stork patent, that will have a scannable symbol (the bar code symbol) that will provide links to other documents wherein the links are already present in the original electronic document. As such, when an electronic document that has hyperlinks is printed, it will not lose the linking information (as when a web page for example is simply printed out). That is, the original document must have hyperlinks in it, which are converted to scannable bar code symbol(s), so that the user can still perform electronic access of the related information.

This is quite different from the Applicant's claimed invention. As explained above, the Applicant's invention allows a user to submit a document, which may or may not have such links, to a server on the Internet, which is the composer interface server. The composer interface server then stores this content online and generates a bar code symbol that will link to this stored content. This bar code symbol is provided back to the user, who can then print it on any document he desires. The effect is that the document with

the bar code may then be linked to the document stored on the Internet. The conversion process set forth in the Stork patent converts back and forth between electronic and hardcopy versions of the same document, which is not the case in the Applicant's invention.

In Stork, the bar code symbol must contain information that includes the hyperlinks that are already included on the original electronic document – that is the purpose of the Stork system. In the Applicant's invention, there is no corresponding electronic document – and the physical document bearing the bar code symbol (printed and disseminated by the first user) will not need to have these hyperlinks – since the purpose of the hyperlinks in the bar code symbol is to allow the second user to scan the bar code and link to the target document stored on the Internet.

Thus, claims 21 and 24 as currently written are novel and unobvious over the cited Stork reference. Dependent claims 22, 23 and 25 are likewise novel and unobvious over Stork.

Applicant thus submits that the entire application is now in condition for allowance, early notice of which would be appreciated. Should the Examiner not agree with the Applicants' position, a personal or telephonic interview is respectfully requested to discuss any remaining issues and expedite the eventual allowance of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A.R. Barkume', written in a cursive style.

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